

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A digital audio recording and reproducing apparatus comprising:
 - an A/D converter for converting an analog radio signal collected by a microphone into digital audio data;
 - a digital compression circuit for compressing said digital audio data such that the analog audio signal of sixty seconds is converted into compressed digital audio data of not larger than 100K bytes;
 - an internal solid state memory for storing said compressed digital audio data;
 - a digital decompression circuit for decompressing said compressed digital audio data read out of said internal solid state memory to generate decompressed digital audio data;
 - a D/A converter for converting said decompressed digital audio data into an analog audio signal;
 - a reproducing means for reproducing said analog audio signal supplied from said D/A converter; and
 - an output means for outputting said compressed digital audio data to an external computer such that the compressed digital audio data has a file format which can be directly treated by the external computer;
- wherein said output means for outputting the compressed digital audio data to the external computer comprises a connecting terminal for connecting detachably an external solid state memory; and

wherein said external solid state memory is used instead of or together with said internal solid state memory to store the compressed digital audio data.

2-3. (Canceled).

4. (Currently Amended) A digital audio recording and reproducing apparatus according to ~~claim 2~~, claim 1, wherein a digital data transmission is effected between said internal solid state memory and said external solid state memory.

5. (Currently Amended) A digital audio recording and reproducing apparatus according to ~~claim 2~~, claim 1, wherein a digital audio signal stored in said external solid state memory is read out and is supplied to said decompression circuit.

6. (Original) A digital audio recording and reproducing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said output means for outputting the compressed digital audio data to the external computer comprises a cable connecting terminal to which one end of a connection cable is detachably connected, the other end of said connection cable being connected to the external computer.

7. (Original) A digital audio recording and reproducing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said output means for outputting the compressed digital audio data to the external computer comprises a transmitter which transmits the compressed digital audio data by means of a radio wave signal or an optical signal to a receiver provided in the external computer.

8. (Original) A digital audio recording and reproducing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said output means for outputting the compressed digital audio data to the external computer comprises a modem and a communication line connecting terminal connected to said modem.

9. (Original) A digital audio recording and reproducing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said internal solid state memory and external solid state memory are formed by a non-volatile semiconductor memory without a backup battery.

10. (Original) A digital audio recording and reproducing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said digital compression circuit is constructed such that the digital audio data is compressed in accordance with an audio coding system based on the ITU-T recommendation G723.1.

11. (Currently Amended) A digital audio recording and reproducing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said file format of the compressed digital audio data outputted to the external ~~computer is~~ computer is a WAVE file format, while the computer works ~~on-in~~ a Windows environment.

12. (Currently Amended) A digital audio recording and reproducing apparatus comprising:

an A/D converter for converting an analog audio signal collected by a microphone into digital audio data;

a digital compression circuit for compressing said digital audio data into compressed digital audio data;

an internal solid state memory for storing said compressed digital audio data;

a digital decompression circuit for decompressing said compressed digital audio data read out of said internal solid state memory to generate decompressed digital audio data;

a D/A converter for converting said decompressed digital audio data into an analog audio signal;

a reproducing means for reproducing said analog audio signal supplied from said D/A converter; and

an external memory connecting terminal for connecting detachably an external solid state memory for storing said compressed digital audio data instead of or together with said internal solid state memory; and

a memory detection mechanism to detect the removal of the external memory;

wherein when it is detected that the external solid state memory is removed from said external memory connecting terminal during a recording operation using the external solid state memory, the recording operation is ~~temporarily~~temporarily interrupted, and after detecting that the ~~relevant~~ external solid state memory is ~~connected~~reconnected to said external memory connecting terminal, the interrupted recording operation is automatically restarted.

13. (Currently Amended) A digital audio recording and reproducing apparatus according to claim 12, wherein when the external solid state memory is detected to be removed from the external memory connecting terminal during the recording operation using the external solid state memory, a warning for requesting a user to connect the relevant external ~~slid~~solid state memory to the external memory connecting terminal is generated.

14. (Currently Amended) A digital audio recording and reproducing apparatus according to claim 12, wherein when it is detected that an external solid state memory different from the external ~~slid~~solid state memory which has been removed from the external memory connecting terminal during the recording operation is connected to the external memory connecting terminal, a warning for indication that the currently connected external solid state memory is different from that removed during the recording operation is generated.

15. (Original) A digital audio recording and reproducing apparatus comprising:
an A/D converter for converting an analog audio signal collected by a microphone into digital audio data;

a digital compression circuit for compressing said digital audio data into compressed digital audio data;

an internal solid state memory for storing said compressed digital audio data;

a digital decompression circuit for decompressing said compressed digital audio data read out of said internal solid state memory to generate decompressed digital audio data;

a D/A converter for converting said decompressed digital audio data into an analog audio signal;

a reproducing means for reproducing said analog audio signal supplied from said D/A converter; and

an external memory connecting terminal for connecting detachably an external solid state memory for storing said compressed digital audio data instead of or together with said internal solid state memory;

wherein said apparatus includes;

a normal reproduction mode in which a ~~signal~~single digital audio data file selected from digital audio ~~data~~data files stored in said internal solid state memory and/or external solid state memory is reproduced only once;

a single file repeat mode in which a single digital audio data file selected from digital audio data files stored in said internal solid state memory and/or external solid state memory is reproduced repeatedly;

a plural file continuous repeat mode in which a plurality of digital audio data files stored in said internal solid state memory and/or external solid state memory are successively reproduced only once; and

a plural file repeat mode in which a plurality of digital audio data files stored in said internal solid state memory and/or external solid state memory are successively reproduced in a repeated manner.

16. (Original) A digital audio recording and reproducing apparatus according to claim 15, wherein in said plural file repeat reproduction mode, all digital audio data files stored in said internal solid state memory and/or external solid state memory are successively reproduced in a repeated manner.

17. (Original) A digital audio recording and reproducing apparatus according to claim 15, wherein in said plural file repeat reproduction mode, a plurality of digital audio data files selected from all digital audio data files stored in said internal solid state memory and/or external solid state memory are successively reproduced in a repeated manner.

18. (Original) A digital audio recording and reproducing apparatus according to claim 15, wherein in said plural file repeat reproduction mode, the order of reproducing a plurality of digital audio data files is set by a user.

19. (Original) A digital audio recording and reproducing apparatus according to claim 15, wherein a plurality of digital audio data files are stored in said internal solid state memory and/or external solid state memory with ordinal file numbers, and in said plural file continuous reproduction mode, a plurality of digital audio data files from a digital audio data file having a file number denoted by a user to a digital audio data file having the last file number are successively reproduced.

20. (Original) A digital audio recording and reproducing apparatus according to claim 15, wherein during said plural file continuous reproduction mode or plural file repeat reproduction mode, when a repeat button is operated by a user in response to a reproduction of a desired speech, said plural file continuous reproduction mode or plural file repeat

reproduction mode is automatically interrupted and said single file repeat reproduction mode is automatically started to reproduce repeatedly a currently reproduced digital audio data file.

21. (Original) A digital audio recording and reproducing apparatus according to claim 15, wherein when said automatically started single file repeat reproduction mode is stopped in response to a user's operation, the interrupted plural file continuous reproduction mode or plural file repeat reproduction mode is restarted.

22. (Original) A digital audio recording and reproducing apparatus comprising:

- an A/D converter for converting an analog audio signal collected by a microphone into digital audio data;
- a digital compression circuit for compressing said digital audio data into compressed digital audio data;
- an internal solid state memory for storing said compressed digital audio data;
- a digital compression circuit for decompressing said compressed digital audio data read out of said internal solid state memory to generate decompressed digital audio data;
- a D/A converter for converting said decompressed digital audio data into an analog audio signal; and
- a reproducing means for reproducing said analog audio signal supplied from said D/A converter;

wherein said internal solid state memory has a data zone divided into a normal data storage area storing digital audio data files of normal speeches and an alarm data storage area storing at least one digital audio data file of an alarm message, and the digital audio data file stored in the alarm data storage area could not be erased at least by a normal operation for erasing one or more digital audio data files stored in the normal data storage area.

23. (Original) A digital audio recording and reproducing apparatus according to claim 22, wherein in a normal reproduction mode, only the normal data storage area can be

accessed, and in an alarm reproduction mode, only the alarm data storage area can be accessed.

24. (Original) A digital audio recording and reproducing apparatus according to claim 22, wherein when no alarm message is recorded, an alarm sound is generated at a time present by a user.

25-29. (Canceled).